

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING GREG PRESTEMON,
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CEN-
TER OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY,
MISSOURI

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor America's entrepreneurs, those distinguished individuals who support our communities, drive innovation, and keep our nation strong. Small businesses bring fresh ideas to the table, develop the resources to meet the demands of an ever-changing world, and make a meaningful impact on our neighborhoods. Entrepreneurs are responsible for providing 60 to 80 percent of all new jobs, giving them the potential to propel rapid economic growth and expand ever-developing fields. Some of the country's largest companies began as start-ups in small offices, homes and garages exploring these new fields. Limited only by their imagination, these firms performed cutting-edge work in emerging industries that have become the very foundation of our society.

As our nation and the world face the most difficult economic conditions in decades, entrepreneurs have the potential to lead us back to prosperity. The resiliency and adaptability shown by small businesses in past recessions demonstrate their capability to meet the challenges standing in their way and emerge stronger than ever. America's small businesses will drive the economic recovery from this downturn and our economy will emerge stronger than ever. Times may be tough, but America's entrepreneurial spirit is tougher.

To recognize the monumental achievements of our nation's small firms, the Small Business Administration (SBA) has declared May 17–23 as the 46th Annual National Small Business Week. The House Small Business Committee is celebrating all our country's hard-working entrepreneurial by saluting the Heroes of Small Business, those men and women who have shown the strength, leadership, and resourcefulness that keeps our economy moving forward.

I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing and thanking Mr. Greg Prestemon for his tremendous accomplishments on behalf of small businesses. Mr. Prestemon has led the St. Charles Economic Development Center (EDC) for 15 years, helping spur the county's rapid population and economic growth during his tenure. Since he assumed the top post at the EDC, St. Charles County has grown by almost 120,000 residents and total valuation assessment has risen from less than \$2 billion to \$7.2 billion in 2007. For his efforts, Mr. Prestemon was named as the 2008 Non-Profit Executive of the Year by St. Charles Business Magazine.

This month, the SBA named the St. Charles EDC as its 504 Lender of the Year after the

organization disbursed more than \$22.5 million to 37 businesses throughout the region in 2008, valuable assistance that helped create or retain over 1,000 jobs. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Iowa State University and a master's degree in economic development from the University of Iowa.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Prestemon has exemplified the remarkable accomplishments of which America's entrepreneurs are capable. This week, he will testify before the House Small Business Committee to share his story. I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join with me in honoring him for the extraordinary work he has done for the small business economy. His efforts demonstrate that if given the right resources, America's small businesses can be the catalysts that lift our economic from the current downturn and put us on the road to recovery.

IN HONOR OF TED HENRY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ted Henry upon the occasion of his retirement from WEWS-TV. Ted is retiring after 38 years of service to the Greater Cleveland Community.

Ted Henry, a household name in the Greater Cleveland Area, began his successful career in broadcasting in 1964 at a local radio station in his hometown of Canton, Ohio. He then became a news reporter at WAKR-TV23 in Akron and later at WKBN-TV in Youngstown, Ohio. He joined WEWS-TV in 1972, where he began as a news producer and later as a weekend anchor. In 1975, Ted was named weekday anchor of the 6:00 pm and 11:00 pm news, a position he has held until his retirement on May 20, 2009. Since his first year as weekday anchor, he has covered nearly every political convention and has traveled all over the world to cover a multitude of historical events, including John Demjanjuk's war crimes trial in Israel, the fall of Berlin Wall and the death of Pope John Paul II in Rome. Additionally, his riveting news coverage on political turmoil in Peru was the first time a live international feed was broadcast in Cleveland.

Ted's ability to humanize the people he covered all over the world has earned him national recognition. He has won five local TV Emmy Awards during his tenure at WEWS and won numerous national awards for a documentary he produced and reported in, "Finding Aliza;" a documentary about two holocaust survivors from Auschwitz who were reunited by the International Red Cross. Ted's 38 year career as the weekday anchor for WEWS-TV was the fulfillment of his childhood dream and has undoubtedly inspired Cleveland's next great reporters.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Ted Henry as he retires from

a 38 year career at WEWS-TV, and in recognition of his talent, innovation and tireless service to the Greater Cleveland Community.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ANGELIA MARIE
ROBERTS-WATKINS, ED.D OF CHI-
CAGO, ILLINOIS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and recognize Dr. Angelia Marie Roberts-Watkins on the occasion of being awarded the Doctorate in Education from the Chicago State University. This degree is particularly noteworthy in that the Educational Leadership Doctoral program at Chicago State is a newly created program and as such Dr. Roberts-Watkins holds the distinction of being the first recipient of a Doctoral degree in the 142-year-old history of this academic institution.

An authority in middle school philosophy, Dr. Roberts-Watkins' dissertation was entitled "Crossroads to the Middle School Movement: Are Teachers In Step with the Tenets and Practices of the National Middle School Association?" She is a former middle school teacher and served as Middle School Manager for the Chicago Public School system. Dr. Roberts-Watkins has also worked as a Teacher-In-Residence on an U.S. Department of Education Middle School Teacher Quality Enhancement (MSTQE) grant program and has presented at national conferences on middle level education.

A 1981 graduate of Mundelein College, Dr. Roberts-Watkins also holds an M.Ed in Educational Administration and a M.S. in Criminal Justice and Corrections from Chicago State University. She is a Visiting Lecturer at Northwestern Illinois University and an Administrator at Illinois State University.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful to have known this outstanding Educator for nearly two decades and I want to encourage Dr. Angelia Marie Roberts-Watkins to continue demonstrating the passion, perception and power necessary to allow this nation's citizens, both young and old, to meet the demanding needs of a global society.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
CHARLES WILLIAM HARBEN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Saraland, Alabama, and all of southwest Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Charles William Harben and pay tribute to his memory.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Known to his many friends as Charlie, he was a native of Leeds and was raised in Chickasaw, Alabama. He served the city of Saraland in public office for almost three decades, 12 years as mayor and 17 as city councilman. In 2008, he ran unopposed in the municipal election.

Mayor Harben was known as a fiscal conservative. Economic development was one of his top priorities, and he was instrumental in attracting business to Saraland, including the city's largest, Wal-Mart.

Mayor Harben also worked for the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad as a secretary, accountant, and an internal auditor, before retiring after 48 years of service.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a beloved friend to many throughout southwest Alabama. Charles William Harben will be dearly missed by his family—his wife of 57 years, Pauline; their son, Charles William Jr.; their grandchildren, Christian, Candice, and Jon; his great-granddaughter, Hayzlynn; and his brother, Johnny—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in reluctant support of S. 986, the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act. Although I supported H.R. 1106 earlier in this Congress, and I will vote for this bill, I remain concerned about many aspects that attempt to fix the problem without addressing the fundamental issues.

S. 896 makes additional changes to the HOPE for Homeowners program despite evidence that it is a seriously flawed model that has failed to effect the type of large-scale mortgage modification that our economy needs if it is going to recover. Despite the changes made, success of the HOPE for Homeowners program continues to be contingent on the active participation of the mortgage lender or mortgage servicer. Once again, we throw money at Wall Street—at the bankers and lenders—and leave individuals and families with nothing.

The bill also reauthorizes programs under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. I am grateful that the plight of the homeless and the growing homeless population has finally merited the attention of Congress; however I am dismayed by some of the provisions in the final bill as well as the process used to arrive at the terms of the relevant language. The problem of homelessness in this country deserves more attention in the House of Representatives than a mere fraction of debate time on a suspension bill. If we had more time and different circumstances, we might have had the opportunity to correct some of the privacy concerns as well as the provisions that limit eligible uses of funds.

Despite the shortcomings in this bill, it represents a small step in the right direction on

the whole. I remain hopeful that Congress will continue to improve the HOPE for Homeowners programs as well as the plight of the growing numbers of homeless citizens. In the end, we must adopt a default posture that accommodates communities, families, and individuals, rather than a default posture that accommodates bankers and financial institutions. Only then will we be able to repair our economy and put our country back on a path of prosperity and growth.

DAVIS FAMILY OF TELlico PLAINS, TENNESSEE

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, there is perhaps no greater sacrifice an American can make than serving their Country during a time of war, and no one can say the Davis family of Tellico Plains, Tennessee has not answered this call. It is a tradition which spans over ninety years.

Private Hedrick Davis enlisted in the Army's Black Cat Division during World War I. After returning home, he bought a farm, married, and had five sons, who would all go on to answer that same call to service.

Four of the Davis sons—Leonard, Dillard, Clarence, and Guy—joined the Armed Forces as soon as World War II began. All the brothers would fight for their Country and despite the tremendous loss of life in this great campaign, all would remarkably live to tell their tales.

Dillard's story is one that took over fifty years to confirm. While on board the Belgian Troop ship the Leopoldville crossing the English Channel on Christmas Eve, a German Submarine attacked, sinking the boat with a torpedo. In a series of calamities following the strike and a botched rescue, 763 American soldiers died. Dillard managed to survive and tell the tale that the United States and Great Britain did not admit until the 1990s.

The fifth Davis brother—Rex—was only sixteen-years-old when World War II ended. But he would not be spared from his family's calling. When the Korean conflict escalated into a full-blown war, Rex Davis answered the call. His tale was one of Hollywood legend—literally.

While training at Fort Benning, GA, movie stars Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis filmed the movie "Jumping Jack" on base, using Rex and his fellow soldiers as extras. Later, while serving in Korea, another movie star—Patricia Neal—came to entertain the troops. She asked on stage if anyone was from Knoxville and Rex jumped right up, getting his photo taken on stage with Ms. Neal. It is a cherished photograph that in 2003 brought Ms. Neal to tears in Knoxville when she was unexpectedly reunited with Rex.

In his Knoxville home, Rex Davis has files of records documenting the service of his father and four brothers, who together fought and survived three wars. Rex went on to serve on the Knoxville City Council, and he is known to tell a great story. I hope this story is told many times.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to call the remarkable service of Private Hedrick

Davis, Master Sgt. Leonard Davis, Staff Sgt. Dillard Davis, Cpl. Clarence Davis, Pfc. Guy Davis, and Cpl. Rex Davis to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES R. RECKNER

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize Dr. James R. Reckner for his dedication to the Vietnam Center and Archive at Texas Tech University. Dr. Reckner retired from Texas Tech University at the end of 2008 after 20 years of service as a professor of history, founding director of the Vietnam Center and Archive, and Executive Director of Texas Tech's new Institute for Modern Conflict, Diplomacy and Reconciliation, which now oversees the Vietnam Center and Archive.

A retired Naval officer and a veteran of the Vietnam War, Dr. Reckner received his Ph.D. from the University of Auckland in New Zealand. He joined the faculty at Texas Tech in September of 1988 and shortly after founded the Vietnam Center and Archive. From 1991 to 1992, Dr. Reckner held the Secretary of the Navy's Research Chair in Naval History and has served as a member of the Secretary's Advisory Subcommittee on Naval History since 1998.

As founder and director of the Vietnam Center and Archive, Dr. Reckner oversaw 20 years of development and growth including the acquisition of many unique and historic collections that have helped us better understand the experience and course of the Vietnam War. As a result of his leadership, the Center has become the foremost Vietnam-related research, archival and reconciliation institution in the United States.

During his years in the United States Navy, Dr. Reckner received the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V", the Meritorious Service Medal and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

For his work in academia, Dr. Reckner also received the Gold Key National Honor Society Teaching Award in 1991, the President's Outstanding Leadership Award in 1996 and the Faculty Distinguished Leadership Award in 2004, among others. Not only is he an inspiring educator and skilled researcher, but he is an accomplished author as well with several published writings on naval and military history. In 1989, he received the Theodore & Franklin D. Roosevelt Annual Naval History Award for his historical biography entitled *Teddy Roosevelt's Great White Fleet*.

I am enormously appreciative to Dr. Reckner for his contributions to the Texas Tech community, veterans of the Vietnam War and their families, and for his efforts to foster reconciliation between Vietnam and the United States. Those in District 19, including me, thank him for a job well-done and extend to him our best wishes for his future endeavors.

HONORING KAREN FONTENOT

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Karen Fontenot, of Duson, Louisiana, who has dedicated her life to helping veterans throughout Southwest Louisiana.

She answered her country's call during the Vietnam Conflict, serving as a nurse in the Philippines.

It was while trying to help move and carry male patients twice her size that Karen first injured her back. It was an injury which left her permanently disabled, unable to walk without the assistance of a cane, and in constant pain. Karen's caring and tender nature was injured, perhaps more severely than her physical being. She suffered with every young man she saw torn apart by the horrors of war.

Upon returning to her family and domestic life in Southwest Louisiana, Karen remained true to her fellow veterans. In an area which lacked Memorial Day and Veterans' Day ceremonies, Karen led a movement to establish those events. She was aided by some fellow veterans, but the brunt of the effort fell on her. For more than a decade, Karen has organized ceremonies to honor those she served alongside as well as those who came before and after her.

When the Iraq War led to the deaths of several local, young men, Karen added a special tribute to the Gold Star Mothers. These families led by the mothers who have lost their child gather with dozens of other veterans and their families to pay tribute to those who have died and those who live.

In addition to the beautiful ceremony, Karen invites all of those attending to a catered lunch at the local Armory. Each of the Gold Star Mothers receives special gifts, and those who have made special contributions are recognized and receive a tribute.

Karen Fontenot broke her back to care for young men injured and killed in the Vietnam conflict and returned home with the intent that all men and women who have sacrificed for their country will be remembered. If it is up to her, none of their sacrifices will be forgotten or overlooked. Karen Fontenot is a patron saint of veterans.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Karen for her achievements and dedication to our nation's veterans.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ABSENTEE BALLOT TRACK, RECEIVE, AND CONFIRM (TRAC) ACT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Absentee Ballot Track, Receive and Confirm (TRAC) Act—a bill to assist states in establishing absentee ballot tracking systems.

Many voters worry that they cannot determine whether their absentee ballots were actually sent out, received and counted.

In most cases, the fears of one's mail-in ballot somehow being lost in the system are un-

founded—but we all know the concern is still there. Our nation's voters deserve electoral procedures that are transparent and which strengthen their faith in democracy.

Sometimes there is reason for concern. I have heard from people who simply did not receive a ballot they requested. There are various reasons for this from clerical errors to confusion over addresses.

Other times, a problem occurs when an absentee ballot is rejected because a voter's signature has changed over time and the voter never knows the difference.

The good news is that it is possible and practical to track mail ballots.

Many elections offices are already tracking ballots with great success. In fact, in California it is law that all counties establish absentee ballot tracking systems and the systems are quite popular with voters and elections officials.

In my home of San Diego County, CA, our registrar's online voter registration/absentee look-up feature received 98,000 hits before the 2008 November election.

Quite simply, the technology exists to allow voters to easily find out whether an elections office has sent out a ballot, whether a completed ballot has arrived back at the registrar's office, whether the registrar has counted the ballot, and if not, why not.

Implementing ballot tracking systems will bring voters peace of mind and reduce the burden on elections offices which are often barraged with phone calls from voters trying to determine the status of their ballots.

Moreover, the ability to check absentee status round the clock is a convenient service for voters, especially for military and overseas voters in various time zones.

Not only is mail ballot tracking feasible and helpful, but it is also affordable.

Setting up systems at an elections office can be as simple as redesigning a website and linking it to a back-up of a current database as San Mateo County, CA discovered when they created a tracking system for just \$2000.

Absentee tracking could even help elections offices save money in the long run as call volumes will likely go down and the strain on elections office staff declines.

Mail ballot tracking is a win-win for voters and elections officials.

We should follow the lead of the trailblazers who are already tracking mail ballots and encourage local jurisdictions to create tracking systems.

The TRAC Act would allow the federal government to reimburse states for establishing tracking systems. However, I want to be clear that it would not require any state to set up a tracking system.

I am proud to introduce this bill along with my fellow colleague from California, Mr. MCCARTHY and I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us in supporting this effort to strengthen the democratic process and give American voters the electoral certainty they deserve.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
JAMES EDWARD ARRINGTON**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Jackson, Alabama, and all of southwest Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor James Edward Arrington and pay tribute to his memory.

A native of Greensboro, Mayor Arrington was a veteran of the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. In 1962, he moved to Jackson to build and operate Arrington Nursing Home, which later became Jackson Health Care. He was former auxiliary police chief in Jackson, former owner of A & B Trucking Company, and co-owner of Anderson Brothers Chrysler-Plymouth dealership.

For all of his achievements, James Arrington will perhaps be most remembered for serving as the mayor of Jackson for over two decades. Among the many accomplishments during his five-term administration include: funding of the new city hall building, locating Allied Paper (now Boise) to Jackson, construction of the Vanity Fair building, and construction of the northern Industrial Road bypass.

Just this past February, the Jackson City Council voted to rename City Hall the James E. Arrington City Hall Complex. Mayor Arrington was also named Jackson's Man of the Year for 1973 by the Jackson Civitan Club.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a beloved friend to many throughout southwest Alabama. James Edward Arrington will be dearly missed by his family—his wife, Betty; his two sons, Ed Arrington and Greg Cotton; his two daughters, Leah Trotter and Brenda Fondren; his brother, Johnnie Arrington; his sister, Maggie Nelson; his eight grandchildren; and great-grandchild—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO THE PASSAIC COUNTY COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION, INC.

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding organization, The Passaic County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Prevention, Inc., which will celebrate its 25th Anniversary on May 25, 2009. This milestone marks a quarter century of supporting those most in need of assistance to get their lives on track, and thereby become a productive part of the greater community.

It is only fitting that The Passaic County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Prevention, Inc. be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for all the assistance it has provided to individuals and families in the Passaic County area.

Passaic County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Prevention, Inc. was incorporated as a nonprofit prevention agency on May 25, 1984. Founded by Father Alan Savitt, a Catholic priest from the Paterson Diocese who still serves as executive director, the Council began working from a 200 square foot trailer in Clifton. After renovating an historic building on the City Hall property, the Council was granted a no cost lease from the city of Clifton and moved into its permanent home.

This facility serves the citizens of Passaic County as a Prevention Resource Center, providing prevention educational outreach services and assistance programs to those in need. Programs range from those like BABES (Beginning Alcohol and Addiction Basic Education Studies) and Forest Friends, serving elementary school children, to high school peer counseling programs, and from drug free workplace and counseling to WISE (Wellness Initiative and Senior Educators).

In addition to providing educational services and referral programs, the council also provides a focus for those interested in advocacy, public policy and prevention legislation.

When the group first began, the county government provided funding for operating expenses, but as the years have gone by, sources of funding have begun to run dry. Through the hard work of the staff and friends of the Council, grants and partnerships have been secured to help make ends meet. Over the years, the Council has received governmental, charitable and foundation grants to help fund its innovative programs and partnership efforts with numerous worldwide, national, statewide and regional programs. Father Savitt and long-term employee, Sister Pauline Kuntne, have shouldered the heavy burden of fundraising with enormous fortitude.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing the efforts of service-minded organizations like the Passaic County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Prevention, Inc.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Father Alan Savitt and the staff and volunteers of the Passaic County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Prevention, Inc., all those who have been touched by their caring professionalism, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of this group to the Passaic County community and beyond.

**URGING ALL AMERICANS AND
PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONALITIES
TO VISIT THE NATIONAL CEME-
TERIES, MEMORIALS, AND
MARKERS ON MEMORIAL DAY**

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as an original cosponsor, to voice my strong support for H. Res. 360, which urges Americans and people of every nationality to visit national cemeteries, memorials, and markers on this upcoming Memorial Day.

Today, we rightfully take time to recognize the men and women who have dedicated their lives to the service of our nation. We are

proud of all of our servicemen and women and are eternally grateful for their efforts in the Global War on Terror. Indeed, the democracy on display here today with our presence in this chamber is testament to the courage and valor of our Armed Services.

Memorial Day is a federal holiday to celebrate the lives of those that have died while defending our nation. The soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who have served in our Armed Services deserve the utmost respect from our nation, and those that have died have made the ultimate sacrifice for the liberties that we enjoy every day.

It is at their final resting place that there will forever be enshrined the spirit of American generosity, sacrifice, and courage that our brave men and women have so graciously provided in defense of our freedom.

Let us also honor and say a gracious thank you to each and every military family member for the encouragement, love, and kindness they exhibit in supporting their precious loved ones as they serve a nation that will forever be free because of their sacrifice. It is to the family members that we say thank you now.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it will be a worthwhile endeavor to spend time on this holiday remembering the sacrifice our heroes have made for America. I encourage every American to visit our national cemeteries and memorials so that they may take part in dedicating this holiday to the memory of the excellent men and women of our Armed Services who have spent a lifetime of service to America.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

**CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
BRUNO DEGOL**

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and celebrate the life of Bruno DeGol of Gallitzin, Pennsylvania who passed away on May 14th surrounded by his family and friends at the age of 86.

It is not an easy task to summarize a life so rich in accomplishment as the one lived by Bruno DeGol. For many of my constituents in Pennsylvania Bruno DeGol was best known as an amazingly successful entrepreneur, a noted philanthropist and as someone who never forgot his roots in the community where he grew up and prospered. I agree with that sentiment and I can say without question Bruno will be missed by all who knew him and knew of him.

You don't get to be as successful in life as Bruno DeGol by backing down to a challenge and Bruno never did. In World War II he took part in the D-Day Invasion as a soldier with the Army's 102nd Infantry Division. Bruno left the Army at the end of the war with an honorable service record that included the Bronze Star and numerous medals and commendations for his service.

Like so many other returning veterans looking for a start in post-war America, Bruno took a chance and opened his first of many business ventures in 1950. By 1972, his business, a construction materials company, had grown

and expanded to four locations in Blair and Cambria Counties in Pennsylvania. Today, through careful expansion by his sons, DeGol Brothers Lumber now serves consumers in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Florida.

Bruno was a consummate entrepreneur with razor sharp business acumen. However, he will be even more fondly remembered for the way he gave back to the people and the community he loved so much. Bruno's philanthropy is most evident in the good work that continues to be done by the Bruno & Lena DeGol Family Foundation as well as his longstanding support of St. Francis University.

Bruno built his version of the American Dream through hard work, determination and the support of his loving family. In fact, even though he was successful in so many things, building his family with his wife Lena was Bruno's most significant achievement. His five children; Don, Dave, Gloria, Bruno Jr., and Dennis and his 18 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren have been left a tremendous legacy to build upon.

Bruno DeGol will be remembered as a visionary and a humanitarian in business and community service. He will be missed by his family, his friends and by the countless people he touched throughout his long and wonderful life. I send my thoughts and my prayers to the DeGol family in their time of loss and ask the House to join me in honoring Bruno DeGol and celebrating his life.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOM-
PLISHMENTS OF JUDGE
MARILYN MORGAN UPON HER
RETIREMENT**

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of a distinguished member of my community, the Honorable Marilyn Morgan, upon her retirement from the United States Bankruptcy Court for the San Jose Division of the Northern District of California.

Judge Morgan has served on the federal bench with honor and integrity for 21 years. She has been an exceptional jurist, committed to fairness in the decisions impacting those who have appeared before her. Throughout her life and career, Judge Morgan has sought to ensure that all parties, including those with limited access to services and legal representation, have justice and equality. However, her extraordinary dedication to public service extends far beyond her courtroom.

Prior to her legal career, Ms. Morgan worked in the civil rights movement in the area of voter registration. After receiving her J.D. from Emory University, Ms. Morgan returned to her native San Jose to start her own practice in bankruptcy law, representing both debtors and creditors. She also served as a bankruptcy trustee. In that capacity, she quickly identified a need for a communications clearinghouse for trustees to connect and share ideas and educational resources. Ms. Morgan was co-founder of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, an educational and advocacy organization for Chapter 7 Trustees that continues to thrive and boast a nationwide membership.

Among some important firsts, Ms. Morgan served as the first woman President of the Santa Clara County Bar Association in 1985–86 and as the first bankruptcy lawyer appointed as a Lawyer Representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. She has also served as a member of the Bankruptcy Advisory Committee to the United States District Court and as a referee and probation monitor on the State Bar Court. Since her appointment to the bench in 1988, Judge Morgan has continued her extensive contributions to the legal community. She is one of the co-founders of the Congressman Don Edwards American Inn of Court, a professional association dedicated to promoting civility and enhancing communications between the bench and the bankruptcy bar. She has also served on the Board of Directors of Lincoln Law School of San Jose, Consumer Credit Counselors of San Francisco and its subsidiary, BALANCE, and the Bay Area Bankruptcy Forum.

Judge Morgan has been a powerful advocate for the improvement of the legal system. In 2007, Judge Morgan testified about “Protecting Home Ownership” before the Subcommittee on Administrative and Commercial Law of the Judiciary Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1997, she also testified before the National Bankruptcy Review Commission regarding proposed amendments to the Bankruptcy Code. In 2007, the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys recognized Judge Morgan for her extraordinary service in the field of consumer bankruptcy law. In 1999, she received the Fresh Start Award from the local consumer bankruptcy community in recognition of her contributions to improving the consumer bankruptcy system.

Judge Morgan has also been an active and effective advocate for improving the quality of, and access to, legal services available to the public. She has served as President of the Santa Clara County Bar Association Law Foundation and a trustee of Santa Clara County Law Related Education. She is also a co-founder of the Pro Bono Project of Santa Clara County. Judge Morgan has been a frequent provider of continuing legal education through the Bay Area Bankruptcy Forum, the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, the Santa Clara County Bar Association, the California Bankruptcy Forum, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, the American Law Institute—American Bar Association, and the Norton Institute.

In addition to her contributions to the legal community, Judge Morgan has given generously to her broader community. One of the first women admitted to membership in the Rotary Club of San Jose, she has truly fulfilled its mission of “service above self.” She has served on the club’s Board of Directors and has been intimately involved in developing Los Amigos de Washington School, a Rotary program that provides support to the students, families and teachers of Washington Elementary School through activities, events and mentoring. Judge Morgan has been a regular at the school, reading books to several classes and mentoring a group of fourth grade girls. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross; the San Jose Cathedral Foundation; The Women’s Fund; the Santa Clara County Public Facilities Corpora-

tion; the Santa Clara County Building Authority; the Downtown YWCA; and the Santa Clara County Century Club.

For more than 30 years, Judge Morgan has been an outstanding pillar of our community in San Jose, a forceful advocate for the improvement of the legal system and the community at large, an inspiration and role model for her public service, a loyal friend to the many people with whom she has worked along the way, and a jurist whose common sense and legal acumen has provided justice to those who have appeared before her.

She is married to the Hon. (Ret.) James R. Grube, and they have three children, Terry, Elyse, and Mark.

It is with great pleasure that I join Judge Morgan in celebrating her life and many accomplishments. I thank her for her contributions to our region in California and to our nation. On behalf of our community, I congratulate Judge Morgan and wish her and her family well in her retirement and her future plans to continue in service to her community.

CONGRATULATING JAMES “J.T.”
THOMAS JR. FOR WINNING CBS’S
“SURVIVOR: TOCANTINS”

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mobile’s own, James “J.T.” Thomas Jr. on winning the million-dollar prize on CBS’s “Survivor: Tocantins—The Brazilian Highlands.”

Before a national television audience, J.T. was announced the winner of the 18th edition of the game. Known as the show’s “nice guy,” J.T. won the unanimous votes of seven jury members, proving he had outwitted, outplayed, and outlasted the other 15 players. He became only the second person to win both the jury vote, worth \$1 million, as well as the viewers’ vote, worth \$100,000.

The Samson, Alabama, native earned a business administration degree from Troy University. While living in Troy, he also owned his own fencing company. He moved to Mobile in 2007, where he manages the B.E. Cattle Co. farm, an operation with 112 head of registered Angus cows, along with 70 calves that are a year old and 60 calves that are just a few months old. He also manages 700 head of cattle in Lowndes County.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating James “J.T.” Thomas Jr. for winning CBS’s “Survivor: Tocantins—The Brazilian Highlands.” I know his friends, families, and members of the community join with me in praising his accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING ERWIN CHARLES
“RED” BECKER ON HIS RETIRE-
MENT AS MAYOR OF EVANS-
VILLE, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in rec-

ognizing Erwin Charles “Red” Becker and wishing him well as he retires as Mayor of Evansville, Illinois.

Red Becker comes by public service naturally. His great uncle, Walter Becker served as Mayor of Evansville from 1923 until 1957 when he died in office. Before serving the Village of Evansville, Red served his country with a tour in Vietnam.

In 1983, Red decided to become more actively involved in local government and ran for Village Trustee. This confirmed his commitment to his community and, two years later, he was elected Mayor of the Village of Hon. Evansville, a position he held through six terms and 24 years.

During Red Becker’s tenure as Mayor, Evansville has seen many changes, including a four-phase road project, an upgraded and expanded boat dock, a new fire house, water tower and line replacements, and new water and sewer treatment facilities. These last items were made necessary due to damage from the “Great Flood of ‘93” which displaced the Mayor from his own residence. During this disastrous time for Evansville as well as many Midwestern communities, Red Becker proved his dedication to public service by working around the clock, meeting the needs of his community, even as many of his own belongings were lost to the flood.

After the devastation of the 1993 flood, Red oversaw a rebuilding of Evansville and has continued to work tirelessly for the benefit of the village and its residents.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of recognition and appreciation for a true public servant, Erwin Charles “Red” Becker, and in wishing him all the best in the future.

RECOGNIZING ROBERTA RAKOVE,
RECIPIENT OF THE PARTNER-
SHIP FOR ACTION GRASSROOTS
CHAMPION AWARD

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Roberta Rakove, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, of Sinai Health System for her outstanding leadership in creating grassroots and community activity in support of her hospital’s mission. Roberta Rakove was first nominated by the Illinois Hospital Association (IHA), and later awarded by both the IHA and the American Hospital Association (AHA) the Partnership for Action Grassroots Champion Award on April 28, 2009.

The Partnership for Action Grassroots Champion Award was established to recognize hospital leaders who most efficiently inform elected officials of the affect major issues have on a hospital’s fundamental role in the community; to recognize hospital leaders who have done an exemplary job in broadening the base of community support for the hospital; and to recognize hospital leaders who continue to advocate on behalf of the hospital and its patients.

Roberta Rakove’s commitment to advocating for the hospital community extends to her 15 years of devotion on IHA’s Advocacy

Council, DSH Steering Committee, and other membership groups.

For 90 years the hospitals and caregivers of Sinai Health System have provided medical care and social services to Chicago's neediest communities in west and south Chicago. Sinai Community Institute provides social service outreach for the lifestyle issues that contribute to health while the Sinai Urban Health institute researches the prevalence of chronic disease in Chicago neighborhoods. Collectively, the Sinai Health System provides a full continuum of care for acute, primary, specialty and rehabilitation to meet the needs of the communities and patients it serves.

CUBAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize that today, May 20, 2009, is Cuban Independence Day. On this day, many people in my home community of South Florida will mark the rich cultural heritage and deep-rooted traditions of Cuban Independence Day. What was once a day of festivity and joy has become a day of nostalgia for a Cuba that once was free, but also of hope that it will soon regain its freedom.

As we continue to see political prisoners jailed in Cuba for peacefully expressing their rights and freedoms, we must remember that May 20, 1902, stood as a day of freedom and liberty after years of struggle and hardship.

Political prisoners today such as Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet and dissidents like Jorge Luis Garcia Perez "Antunez" hold strong unto their forefathers' passion for liberty and desire to live in a free and transparent democracy. While Dr. Biscet currently serves a 25-year prison sentence in Cuba, even from behind bars, he continues to promote democracy, social justice and liberty for all Cuban people.

Close friends, neighbors and many others who I grew up with are Cuban-Americans who have come to this country with little else beyond the clothes on their back and are now living the American Dream. I stand alongside these patriotic individuals as they mark May 20th in our State. They are men and women who love their adopted homeland, but long for their native land to allow them the freedoms they enjoy here. I offer them my solidarity on this special day.

WALL STREET JOURNAL OP-ED PIECE ON TORTURE

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the following Op-Ed piece from the May 16, 2009 edition of the Wall Street Journal. I believe this piece speaks to the reactive nature of Congress, and will help shed some light on this issue to those both inside and outside the Beltway.

[From the Wall Street Journal, May 16, 2009]
CRITICS STILL HAVEN'T READ THE "TORTURE"
MEMOS

(By Victoria Toensing)

Sen. Patrick Leahy wants an independent commission to investigate them. Rep. John Conyers wants the Obama Justice Department to prosecute them. Liberal lawyers want to disbar them, and the media maligns them.

What did the Justice Department attorneys at George W. Bush's Office of Legal Counsel (OLC)—John Yoo and Jay Bybee—do to garner such scorn? They analyzed a 1994 criminal statute prohibiting torture when the CIA asked for legal guidance on interrogation techniques for a high-level al Qaeda detainee (Abu Zubaydah).

In the mid-1980s, when I supervised the legality of apprehending terrorists to stand trial, I relied on a decades-old Supreme Court standard: Our capture and treatment could not "shock the conscience" of the court. The OLC lawyers, however, were not asked what treatment was legal to preserve a prosecution. They were asked what treatment was legal for a detainee who they were told had knowledge of future attacks on Americans.

The 1994 law was passed pursuant to an international treaty, the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment. The law's definition of torture is circular. Torture under that law means "severe physical or mental pain or suffering," which in turn means "prolonged mental harm," which must be caused by one of four prohibited acts. The only relevant one to the CIA inquiry was threatening or inflicting "severe physical pain or suffering." What is "prolonged mental suffering"? The term appears nowhere else in the U.S. Code.

Congress required, in order for there to be a violation of the law, that an interrogator specifically intend that the detainee suffer prolonged physical or mental suffering as a result of the prohibited conduct. Just knowing a person could be injured from the interrogation method is not a violation under Supreme Court rulings interpreting "specific intent" in other criminal statutes.

In the summer of 2002, the CIA outlined 10 interrogation methods that would be used only on Abu Zubaydah, who it told the lawyers was "one of the highest ranking members of" al Qaeda, serving as "Usama Bin Laden's senior lieutenant." According to the CIA, Zubaydah had "been involved in every major" al Qaeda terrorist operation including 9/11, and was "planning future terrorist attacks" against U.S. interests.

Most importantly, the lawyers were told that Zubaydah—who was well-versed in American interrogation techniques, having written al Qaeda's manual on the subject—"displays no signs of willingness" to provide information and "has come to expect that no physical harm will be done to him." When the usual interrogation methods were used, he had maintained his "unabated desire to kill Americans and Jews."

The CIA and Department of Justice lawyers had two options: continue questioning Zubaydah by a process that had not worked or escalate the interrogation techniques in compliance with U.S. law. They chose the latter.

The Justice Department lawyers wrote two opinions totaling 54 pages. One went to White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales, the other to the CIA general counsel.

Both memos noted that the legislative history of the 1994 torture statute was "scant." Neither house of Congress had hearings, debates or amendments, or provided clarification about terms such as "severe" or "pro-

longed mental harm." There is no record of Rep. Jerrold Nadler—who now calls for impeachment and a criminal investigation of the lawyers—trying to make any act (e.g., waterboarding) illegal, or attempting to lessen the specific intent standard.

The Gonzales memo analyzed "torture" under American and international law. It noted that our courts, under a civil statute, have interpreted "severe" physical or mental pain or suffering to require extreme acts: The person had to be shot, beaten or raped, threatened with death or removal of extremities, or denied medical care. One federal court distinguished between torture and acts that were "cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment." So have international courts. The European Court of Human Rights in the case of Ireland v. United Kingdom (1978) specifically found that wall standing (to produce muscle fatigue), hooding, and sleep and food deprivation were not torture.

The U.N. treaty defined torture as "severe pain and suffering." The Justice Department witness for the Senate treaty hearings testified that "[t]orture is understood to be barbaric cruelty . . . the mere mention of which sends chills down one's spine." He gave examples of "the needle under the fingernail, the application of electrical shock to the genital area, the piercing of eyeballs. . . ." Mental torture was an act "designed to damage and destroy the human personality."

The treaty had a specific provision stating that nothing, not even war, justifies torture. Congress removed that provision when drafting the 1994 law against torture, thereby permitting someone accused of violating the statute to invoke the long-established defense of necessity.

The memo to the CIA discussed 10 requested interrogation techniques and how each should be limited so as not to violate the statute. The lawyers warned that no procedure could be used that "interferes with the proper healing of Zubaydah's wound," which he incurred during capture. They observed that all the techniques, including waterboarding, were used on our military trainees, and that the CIA had conducted an "extensive inquiry" with experts and psychologists.

But now, safe in ivory towers eight years removed from 9/11, critics demand criminalization of the techniques and the prosecution or disbarment of the lawyers who advised the CIA. Contrary to columnist Frank Rich's uninformed accusation in the New York Times that the lawyers "proposed using" the techniques, they did no such thing. They were asked to provide legal guidance on whether the CIA's proposed methods violated the law.

Then there is Washington Post columnist Eugene Robinson, who declared that "waterboarding will almost certainly be deemed illegal if put under judicial scrutiny," depending on which "of several possibly applicable legal standards" apply. Does he know the Senate rejected a bill in 2006 to make waterboarding illegal? That fact alone negates criminalization of the act. So quick to condemn, Mr. Robinson later replied to a TV interview question that he did not know how long sleep deprivation could go before it was "immoral." It is "a nuance," he said.

Yet the CIA asked those OLC lawyers to figure out exactly where that nuance stopped in the context of preventing another attack. There should be a rule that all persons proposing investigation, prosecution or disbarment must read the two memos and all underlying documents and then draft a dissenting analysis.

IN MEMORY OF EDWARD "SCOTT"
HOOD

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this week, we in the House lost one of our own. It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the memory of Edward "Scott" Hood and his years of exemplary service to the Members and staff of the House of Representatives.

Scott Hood lived in Point of Rocks, Maryland with his wife, Karen, and sons, Zachary and Luke. He served the House of Representatives with distinction and excellence for almost twenty-three years, beginning his Congressional career in the House Cabinet Shop. Scott worked in that shop for eleven years, where he learned and honed his skills in the woodworking trade. "Scotty" was a valued craftsman and a remarkable talent, with many of his pieces still in use throughout the Capitol complex. The highlight of Scott's portfolio was a sideboard which he made for then Speaker of the House, the Honorable Newt Gingrich, in August of 1996. It can still be viewed in room H-230 of the Capitol.

When the position of Office Coordinator was created in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) in 2002, Scott saw this as an opportunity to enhance his career path by applying his knowledge of cabinetry to advise his customers on furniture choices and selections. He continued to build and cultivate relationships with offices over the next few years, ultimately working his way up to Supervisor of the CAO Capitol Service Center in 2004. In addition to his supervisory duties, he was assigned to the responsibility of coordinating and responding to the furniture and equipment needs of the Leadership offices, as well as representing the CAO organization in the logistical coordination of high-profile events in the Capitol Building. In 2007, he was awarded the Darrell Norman Excellence Award—the highest recognition of service bestowed on an employee of the Chief Administrative Officer. The summation of his recognition then is a fitting testament to his entire career with the House. "Scott Hood inspires and motivates his staff to deliver quality services and solutions to the furniture and equipment problems of the offices located in the Capitol. Scott has also been a keen contributor to our efforts to enhance customer satisfaction and to work across the organization and with a variety of service partners to deliver solutions that exceed the expectations and needs of their customers. He has been particularly effective in bringing his change management and leadership skills to bear in developing an effective partnership with the Architect of the Capitol to deliver seamless solutions to House Leadership Offices."

Scott was able to use his inherent honesty and integrity to build trusting relationships and to be a valued advisor to both his offices and staff at all levels. Scott not only embraced and lived the CAO mission, vision, values, and brand, but inspired and motivated his staff and other organizations to do the same. Admired by the people who knew him and appreciated

by those he served, Scott was an exceptional role model. His colleagues tell us that they will miss his shy smile and the "will do" spirit and positive attitude that he brought to work each day. When asked to describe him, the most common phrase mentioned was, "He was 'The Rock' that we relied on."

Besides his loving wife and sons, Scott is survived by his parents, Darlene G. and Edward Hood, of Germantown, MD. He was the son-in law of Edith Jenkins, the loving grandson of Otis and Margaret Smith, and the brother of Kevin Hood and his wife Zaida, all of Germantown, MD.

It is a privilege to pay respects to a man who lived the spirit of unconditional and unwavering service to this great institution. On behalf of the entire House community, we extend our condolences to Scott's family, friends and colleagues in mourning the loss of this truly special public servant. I am honored to stand before the House and to commend him for his service to the Congress and our Nation.

**HONORING FAMILIES OF FALLEN
SOLDIERS**

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor all the families who have lost a loved one in defense of our great Nation and in particular, those gathered at Calvary Baptist Church in Lakeland, Florida. For over 225 years, the United States has been a beacon of hope and freedom throughout the world. That freedom comes at a price, however. Whether it is the original fight for independence during the American Revolution, the drive to defeat communism during the cold war, or the current battle in the Middle East, soldiers throughout our history have fought and given their lives to keep us safe here at home. I salute their sacrifice, the sacrifice of their families, and dedication to their fellow man.

Our Nation has often had to defend itself from enemies, both foreign and domestic. Throughout these struggles, it has been our shared faith in our Lord that has given us the strength to soldier on during tough and trying times. America has seen both the good and the bad throughout our Nation's history, but in the end I firmly believe that each of us will heed the call to show our commitment to God when forced to make decisions that affect our fellow man.

To those who will gather at Calvary Baptist Church to honor our "True American Heroes," know this Congress thanks you and honors you. As Ronnie and Aileen Payne wrote to me, "Our sons and daughters were more than just a name and a casualty number. They were the best that America had to offer. They ran in when others ran out. They answered when America called."

America is the greatest Nation in the world. We have a proud history of service, faith and community ties that bind us to the common belief in the goodness of mankind. Our collec-

tive faith in God surpasses the fear and uncertainty we may feel from time to time. By working and praying together we can ensure that future generations of Americans will share the morals and values that brought us here today. Thank you and God bless the United States of America.

**"HOPE BLOOMS" FOUNDERS
WAYNE AND SHANNON MARKLOWITZ OF CLEAR LAKE, MN**

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two truly amazing individuals, Wayne and Shannon Marklowitz of Clear Lake, as they begin to create a foster care community, "Hope Blooms", in Becker, Minnesota. Wayne and Shannon are working hard to provide a safe, welcoming environment for some of the 650 Minnesota children between the ages of 0 and 18 who are waiting to be placed with a foster home. And, they also hope to provide a close support network for the families that want to provide the love and care these children so desperately need.

It is not often we see such dedication toward such a selfless goal, particularly amidst these troubling times when people honestly turn their focus inward. Wayne works as a fire fighter and Shannon is studying to become a counselor, so there are plenty of very legitimate excuses to hold off on this endeavor. But the inspiration of a similar program in Texas, the prayers of their family, the support of their community and their unconditional faith have moved this project closer to fruition with each day. In fact, Wayne and Shannon received their not-for-profit status from the federal government in just one month, even though they had been told the process takes a year. Even government appears to have been inspired by their dreams.

After fostering 23 children with my family, I know the personal joy a foster child can bring to a home. I am so grateful to for that gift that I received as a foster parent, and I am equally grateful to the Marklowitz' for helping other families experience that same joy. Shannon and Wayne are taking on this endeavor as a leap of faith, as they acknowledge, answering the call from Christ's apostle James, who asked true believers "to look after the orphans and widows in distress."

I rise to honor this amazing young couple for their faith and work to meet such important goals. The month of May has been designated as "National Foster Care Month" and I encourage all Americans to look into foster care options and to support the families that have foster children. The future of our country rests firmly on the shoulders of our children and the hundreds of thousands of children in foster care are an important part in carrying on the principles of freedom and community on which America was founded. I look forward to seeing the success and joy Hope Blooms brings to foster families and children in and around Becker. May God continue to bless the homes that have opened their doors to the children in need.

TRIBUTE TO CENTENNIAL HIGH
SCHOOL, CALIFORNIA FOOTBALL
CHAMPIONS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a school in my congressional district that not only excels in academics but is also distinguished on the football field. On December 19, 2008, The Centennial High School football team won the 2008 California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Division I Championship. In the championship game, Centennial defeated De La Salle, Concord 21 to 16.

The football team is an outstanding example of hard work, determination and perseverance. They were undefeated in the 2008 season and have earned the title "Champions." The members of the winning football team, according to their jersey number, include:

Dion Bass, Geshun Harris, Nick Beasley, Michael Aguon, Taylor Martinez, Michael Arredondo, Vontaze Burfict, Jason Manalili, Lenon Ford, Larry Scott, Trevor Romaine, Demetrit Beasley, Chris Simpson, Charles Oakley, Cody Baker, Barrington Collins, Michael Eubank, Ricky Marvray, Sam Kadar, Chris Gonzalez, Hayden Gavett, Anthony Goodman, Arthur Burns, KJ Vaifale, Kevin Angulo, Eddie Lopez, Denzel Hawkins, Duran Harris, Jacob Duro, Lee Adams, Anthony Whitlow, Khiry Shabazz, Norman Ford, Brandon Brown, Daniel Contreras, Marques Watson, Damion Smith, Izaac Colunga, Jimmy Munoz, JD Austin, Jaleel Johnson, Daniel Mireles, Frank Jimenez, James Lindsay, Markiece Miller, Casey Winans, Derek Aviles, Brandon Holder, Andrew Torres, Adam Hollick, Eric Rizzo, Steele Frey, David Leon, Jacob Appleton, Daniel Rojas, Cesar Olivares, Jake Amaya, Adam Davila, Adrian Contreras, Kendrick Allen, Luis Rodriguez, Marc Andres, Robbie Bishop, Chad Salcido, Jesus Cacho, Jacob Olsson, Gavin Pascarella, Joseph Lopez, Johnnyray Cabrera, Elijah Perricone, JT Felix, David Mireles, Deji Olijade, Jeremy Fennell, JT Powell, Ahkeel Chambers, Derrick Wilson, Romello Goodman, Isaiah Ashby, Bryan Murillo, Eric Finney, Milo Jordan, Iosefa Gasu, Derrick Ivy, William Sutton, Ben Letcher, Paul Verrette, Adam Uribe, Christian Gonzales, Thomas Amato.

The team is led by Head Coach Matt Logan; Assistant Coaches Ron Guringer, Jeremy Goins, Brian Benz, Noel Hughes, Matt Lance, Mike Nicks, Bill Carter, Kunane Burns, James Hughes, Leo Perez, Dan Herring, Casey Richardson, Trevor Bermudez, Ika Tamelfuna, and Corey Kipp. The team is strongly supported by Principle Sam Buenrostro, Athletic Director Bill Gunn and the entire Centennial family.

It is an honor to represent such a fine group of young people with a strong dedication to teamwork and academics. I know each one of them will treasure the memories of their championship season and I commend them, and the entire Centennial High School community, for this truly great achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE CORPS
OF RETIRED EXECUTIVES
(SCORE) FOR THEIR VALUABLE
SERVICE TO THE SMALL BUSI-
NESS COMMUNITY

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Started in October 5, 1964, Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), known presently as "SCORE Counselors to America's Small Business," is made up of more than 11,200 counselors in nearly 400 offices who provide time and expertise to assist fledgling business owners and prospective entrepreneurs. Today, the organization fulfills the vital role of helping small business owners survive economic challenges, stay in business, and keep Americans working. According to the Small Business Administration (SBA), each year SCORE assistance helps start approximately 20,000 new businesses and creates approximately 25,000 jobs.

In 2008, SCORE reached the impressive milestone of providing eight million clients with mentoring and training since its founding. That year, SCORE's nearly 7,000 business workshops drew in excess of 133,000 attendees and the online workshops attracted 51,000 more. Counselors can provide assistance via e-mail and numerous courses may be taken on line, free of charge.

America's small businesses play a significant role in our economy, accounting for 99.7% of all employer firms and generating more than half of the non-farm private gross domestic product (GDP). SCORE continues to be a well-positioned and valuable resource for these small businesses as they grow and develop.

I commend SCORE's numerous volunteers who share their time and valuable expertise to equip future entrepreneurs with the skills to own and operate successful small businesses. Volunteers from SCORE have demonstrated their commitment to enhancing quality of life, building strong communities, and promoting economic growth. Our communities can take pride in SCORE's good work.

HONORING BOB WILLIAMS FOR HIS
EFFORTS SENDING CARE PACK-
AGES TO OUR SOLDIERS OVER-
SEAS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor American patriot and founder of the "Support Our Troops" organization, Bob Williams.

A veteran of the Vietnam War, Bob Williams understands how valuable it is to receive a care package from home. For 27 years, Bob has sent care packages to members of the Armed Forces serving overseas, often using his own funds to cover both the cost of supplies and postage. His organization, Support Our Troops, is the largest of its kind in Florida to send care packages to troops. His group operates out of its own warehouse in Wesley

Chapel, Florida, sending out over 250 packages a week. While Mr. Williams accepts donations, the cost of postage can often exceed \$8,000 a week.

In order to alleviate some of the difficulties incurred by these costs, Representative KATHY CASTOR and I have introduced H.R. 707, which would allow for a monthly voucher providing free postage for small parcels and other correspondence to be distributed to soldiers serving in combat zones overseas to transfer at their own discretion. We have introduced this legislation to recognize not only the sacrifices made by the brave men and women who serve overseas in our Armed Forces, but the sacrifices borne by their loved ones back home. Our hope is that, once passed into law, this bill will also assist generous souls like Bob Williams in his organization's efforts to send our troops a piece of home.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Bob Williams for the many contributions he has made to honor the bravery and selfless sacrifice of our Nation's servicemembers. May God bless our troops and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

THANKING LAKE ALICE SCHOOL

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a gem of western Nebraska, Lake Alice School. The school, which first opened its doors in 1915, will bid its final farewell on Monday.

A Farewell to Lake Alice School will be held with an open house at the school, allowing anyone who is or has been associated with the school to reminisce on its impact to our community and what it has meant to so many people through the years.

Nearly 7,000 students from Scottsbluff and the surrounding area have passed through the school during its 93 years. I'm proud to have known Lake Alice students, teachers, graduates, and faculty throughout my life. The school provided a quality education and served as a point of pride for the community.

Lake Alice will hold a special place in our hearts. I hate to see the doors close, but I know the memories will last forever.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF HUEY
ALFRED MACK SR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Robertsedale, Alabama, and all of southwest Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Huey Alfred Mack Sr. and pay tribute to his memory.

Mr. Mack was born in rural Escambia County and studied pre-med at the University of Alabama. In 1958, he received a degree in mortuary science at Gupton Jones Institute in Dallas, Texas, and just seven years later, he and his family moved from Atmore to Robertsedale and opened Mack Funeral Home.

In 1978, he was appointed by then-Governor George C. Wallace as Baldwin County's coroner. He went on to win seven consecutive elections and remained in the post until his retirement in 2006. In addition to serving as county coroner and owning the funeral home, he ran a commercial real estate business and a small cattle operation.

Former Baldwin County District Attorney David Whetstone said "[Mr. Mack] was probably one of the best coroners in the history of Alabama . . . And he is one of the best friends you could have." Jim Small, who was elected county coroner following Mr. Mack's retirement said, "He was a person who worked hard and diligently."

Mr. Mack was a founding member of the Central Baldwin County Chamber of Commerce and had served as its president. He was also past president of the Alabama Funeral Director's Association, the Robertsdale Rotary Club, and past board member of the Selected Independent Funeral Homes. He was a devout member of Robertsdale United Methodist Church.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a beloved friend to many throughout southwest Alabama. Huey Alfred Mack Sr. will be dearly missed by his family—his wife, Jean Marie Mack; his daughter, Linda Lou Mack, his son, Huey A. "Hoss" Mack Jr.; his sister, Judy; his brother, Arnold; his five grandchildren; and his great grandchild—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

HONORING MRS. PATRICIA HECK

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Patricia Heck, an exemplary public servant who is retiring as a teacher at Red Mountain High School in Mesa.

In 1988, Pat launched a program at Red Mountain through Reading Is Fundamental that promotes a love of reading for all ability groups through fun and entertaining activities. Pat's commitment and deep passion for literacy encourages students of all reading levels to unlock the mystery that each book holds.

Fueled by Pat's drive and determination, the program flourished. The club currently consists of 1,800 teen members; representing more than half the student body. Members organize an annual carnival, and produce year-round reading displays, assemblies, and read-a-thons. Every year, they collect over 2,500 books to distribute to their own high school and in other areas of need. Since the school opened in 1988, the club has given away \$3 million in donated books. At the core of Club RIF are the one-on-one reading buddies that work directly with 150 second graders at the Salk Elementary School and the tutors who read to 1,375 children each week.

Pat's dedication has been recognized numerous times over the years including national recognition in 1991 as President Bush Sr.'s 432nd Point of Light and in 2000 as the recipients of President Clinton's Student Service Award.

After more than 20 years of service to Club RIF and 30 years in education, Pat is retiring. Through her leadership, vision and passion, she excelled as a charismatic advocate for literacy and provided a shining example of how students can positively influence children in their communities through education and reading. Her energy and enthusiasm for Club RIF and its mission will continue to inspire students to get excited about reading.

I take particular pride in Pat's contributions and accomplishments because she was one of my first students when I began my own 28-year teaching career.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Patricia Heck on her energetic contributions to Club RIF, her upcoming retirement, and the lasting legacy she will leave with the community.

RECOGNIZING BETTE MIDLER AND THE NEW YORK RESTORATION PROJECT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Bette Midler and the New York Restoration Project who for the last 14 years has been revitalizing underserved parkland and community gardens in my Congressional District and throughout the City of New York. Restoration of our beloved parks and gardens has promoted in my community a sense of ownership and civic pride leading residents to preserve their beloved recreational areas.

Bette Midler first got the attention of this Congress when she took to national syndicated television in 1994 and confessed that if she had not gone into entertainment she probably would have pursued a career as an urban planner, and she certainly has moved to the forefront in promoting livability with her personal advocacy and investment.

This was most apparent when she spearheaded the rescue of 112 parks and community gardens in New York City when then Mayor Rudolph Giuliani threatened to auction these small gardens to the highest bidder for redevelopment. Had Bette not stepped in, along with the Trust for Public Land and the New York Restoration Project (NYRP), a great number of New Yorkers would have lost their sprawling parks and adored gardens.

New York Restoration Project was founded by Bette Midler in 1995 as the "conservancy of forgotten places." NYRP reclaims, restores and revitalizes neglected parks, community gardens and waterfronts throughout New York City—focusing especially on underserved neighborhoods. NYRP is also the lead non-profit partner of Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC MillionTreesNYC, the most ambitious public-private initiative in the country, dedicated to planting one million new trees in New York City by 2017.

For 14 years, NYRP has recognized that the challenges facing New York City's natural environment are significant. Dramatic increases in population, shortage of green spaces, insufficient tree canopy, and unsatisfactory environmental education are some of the compelling obstacles facing our great city, especially in low-income neighborhoods. As a result of

these pressing issues, the City is facing dangerously high rates of obesity and diabetes; dramatic climate changes with rising temperatures and sea levels; devastatingly poor air quality and growing asthma rates; and lack of knowledge of, and respect for, the natural environment among younger generations. NYRP is able to combat the negative effects of these concerns through five core initiatives: Park Reclamation and Beautification, Community Garden Design Excellence Program, Community Outreach, Environmental Education Programming, and MillionTreesNYC Tree Planting and Stewardship.

As a permanent operational partner with local communities and city agencies, NYRP supplies labor, materials, project design and management, and environmental educational programs throughout the city's green spaces. NYRP has removed more than 1,900 tons of garbage and debris from New York City parks and public spaces; created Swindler Cove Park on the Harlem River, on the site of what was once an illegal dumping ground; planted more than 200,000 trees as part of MillionTreesNYC, a public-private partnership between the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and NYRP; undertaken the care of Fort Washington Park, Fort Tryon Park, Highbridge Park, Bridge Park, and Roberto Clemente State Park; saved 114 community gardens from commercial development; and served thousands of youth and families with after-school and school-day outdoor learning and public programs.

So Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing my good friend Bette Midler for all her contributions to our parks and such a remarkable and impressive organization like the New York Restoration Project who, under the leadership of Executive Director Drew Becher, has transformed and beautified the parks and community gardens of my district and the city of New York.

PRESIDENT MA OF TAIWAN

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, President Ma of Taiwan will celebrate the one-year anniversary of his taking office on May 20th, 2009. In just one year, the Harvard-educated President has accomplished so much to improve Taiwan's standing on the world stage.

The latest of these accomplishments is Taiwan's acceptance as an official observer at the World Health Assembly that will take place later this month in Geneva. The World Health Assembly, which is part of the World Health Organization, will finally give Taiwan's 23 million citizens a voice at this forum. This is possible because of President Ma's blossoming relationship with mainland China.

In April, officials from China and Taiwan participated in the Chiang-Chen Talks. The talks resulted in the signing of the following agreements: (1) "Agreement on Joint Cross-Strait Crime-fighting and Mutual Judicial Assistance" (2) the "Cross-Strait Financial Cooperation Agreement" and (3) the "Supplementary Agreement on Cross-Strait Air Transport." All of these agreements will result in improved coordination between the Taiwan

Straits neighbors in the areas of law enforcement, financial exchanges and travel.

Among other successes, President Ma's administration was able to have Taiwan removed from the Special 301 Watch List which is maintained by the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). The removal shows Taiwan's commitment to preventing the importing and exporting of illegally pirated materials such as DVD's and CD's.

Madam Speaker, I would like to call these accomplishments and the successful first year of President Ma's administration to my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS
REALIGNMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1089, the Veterans Employment Rights Realignment Act of 2009. I thank Representative HERSETH SANDLIN of South Dakota for her leadership on the issues of veteran employment and education, and I commend her for bringing this bill to the Floor today.

Members of the Armed Forces—including the National Guard and Reserves—serve our nation with selflessness and courage. They deserve our gratitude, and in these difficult economic times, I believe that means we must redouble our efforts to ensure they have full and fair access to employment after their service.

H.R. 1089 will remove bureaucratic hurdles for veterans in search of redress for discriminatory employment practices, and it will allocate new resources to the Office of Special Counsel—the federal investigative and prosecutorial agency tasked with protecting federal employees from prohibited personnel practices.

In 1994, Congress put in place a strong set of employment protections for service members and veterans in the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. We need to enforce this law quickly and efficiently, and the Veterans Employment Rights Realignment Act of 2009 will help the Office of Special Counsel to do just that.

I was proud to support H.R. 1089 when it was considered by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and I am pleased to support this bill on the House floor today. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this important legislation to protect service members and veterans from inappropriate employment practices.

TRIBUTE TO THE 203RD MILITARY
POLICE BATTALION

HON. PARKER GRIFFITH

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 203rd Military Police Battalion of Athens, Alabama. On June 21st, the 203rd

Battalion will depart for Fort Bliss to train before leaving for Iraq.

The 203rd Military Police Battalion has provided community service support to the Athens Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) for more than a decade, specifically with the annual RSVP Picnic in the Park. Without their assistance, this special event for RSVP volunteers would not be possible. The Picnic in the Park will be especially meaningful this year as the 203rd prepares to deploy.

We enjoy our way of life and the freedoms we have because of groups like the 203rd Military Police Battalion. Their years of sacrifice on both local and national levels serve as an extraordinary example of leadership for us all.

Madam Speaker, I wish to express my extreme gratitude for the 203rd Military Police Battalion's service to my district and to honor them as they leave home in defense of our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH INTILE

HON. BILL PASCRELL JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding individual, Chief Joseph Intile, who is being recognized May 20, 2009 on the occasion of his retirement as Chief of the Bloomfield, NJ Fire Department, after thirty years of dedicated service.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, because he is the embodiment of the patriotism and community spirit that make our nation so great.

Chief Intile joined the Bloomfield Fire Department on March 27, 1979 and since then has brought much distinction to the department and to his position. Most notably, he guided the Bloomfield Fire Department in becoming the first Fire Department in the northeastern United States to achieve international accreditation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Commission of Fire Accreditation.

Chief Intile is one of the most decorated and honored Fire Chiefs in the State of New Jersey. He holds a Masters of Administrative Science from Fairleigh Dickinson University and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

He is a member of several highly respected professional organizations, such as the National Fire Protection Association,

International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Society of Executive Fire Officers, National Fire Academy Alumni Association, New Jersey Career Fire Chiefs Association, and the New Jersey State Fire Chiefs Association as well as many others including my own Congressional Public Safety Advisory Committee.

During his tenure in the Bloomfield Fire Department, Chief Intile achieved Executive Fire Officer status from the National Fire Academy and Chief Fire Officer Designation from the Commission on Fire Officer Designation. He has attained Fire Official, Fire Inspector, and Incident Management Level 3 ranks from the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice. He has received five Live Saving Awards from the Township of Bloomfield, three Public Safety

Awards from the John I. Crecco Foundation, as well as recognition from the New Jersey General Assembly, the Essex County Board of Freeholders, and the New Jersey State Senate.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to being able to acknowledge great Americans like Chief Joseph Intile.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Joseph's family and friends, the members of the Bloomfield Fire Department, all those who have been touched by him, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of Chief Joseph Intile to his profession and his community.

HONORING DOS PUEBLOS HIGH
SCHOOL ENGINEERING ACADEMY
AND THEIR ROBOTICS TEAM,
THE D'PENGUINEERS

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commend my constituents at the Dos Pueblos High School Engineering Academy in Goleta, CA.

After rigorous study of engineering, science, math and other subjects, thirty-two high school seniors in this program came together to form a Robotics team called the D'Penguineers.

This group of talented students won two regional competitions and competed last month in the International For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Challenge in Atlanta, Georgia and won the coveted Motorola Quality Award which is given to the best-designed robot in the competition.

In only six weeks, these impressive high school students built a robot with the ability to remove 40-inch diameter balls from a 6½-foot tall overpass, drive along a prescribed path, and maneuver the balls into position with each pass under or over the underpass on each lap.

Madam Speaker, the Dos Pueblos Engineering Academy and the success of the D'Penguineers exemplifies what motivated students can do with support from their families, teachers and community.

To build on the success of these students, we must continue to prioritize science education and funding, not only throughout the South and Central Coasts but across the country as well.

With research performed by these students and others equally committed to the scientific community, our country will lead the world with new solutions for clean energy and more efficient technology.

I am proud to represent these gifted high school seniors, their dedicated instructors, and the entire Dos Pueblos High School community in Congress.

I am sure this esteemed achievement is indicative of many further successes for these intelligent young people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 18, 2009, I was excused from a series of three rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three measures.

These measures were: H. Res. 300, a resolution congratulating Camp Dudley YMCA of Westport, New York, on the occasion of its 125th anniversary, introduced by Mr. McHUGH of New York; S. 386, the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009, as amended, introduced by Senator LEAHY of Vermont; and H. Res. 442, a resolution recognizing the importance of the Child and Adult Care Food Program and its positive effect on the lives of low income children and families, introduced by Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL CHILD AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I stand in strong support of House Resolution 438, a bipartisan resolution which expresses the sense of the U.S. House of Representatives that National Child Awareness Month should be established in the month of September.

September is traditionally "back-to-school" month, a time when families focus on preparing children for the coming school year. Recognizing September as National Child Awareness Month will heighten the American public's attentiveness to the importance of our children's health, education, safety and character development through the ongoing efforts of the numerous organizations and individuals who help to protect and nurture them. With this resolution we express our support for a month-long effort to recognize the importance of children in our society as they grown into responsible citizens.

It is widely recognized that a strong, supportive family unit is the most important factor in the well-being of a child. Unfortunately there is no guarantee that every child will have a support system to depend on. Thankfully there are many organizations that provide for the most disadvantaged children in communities across the country. Even children with solid support systems benefit from youth-serving organizations which enrich their lives through activities such as sports, the arts, philanthropy and further education outside of the classroom.

I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to the 69 bipartisan cosponsors and to the gentlady from Orange County, the lead sponsor, LORETTA SANCHEZ, for her efforts on behalf of this resolution. In addition I would like to extend a special thanks to the Education and Labor Committee for moving the bill quickly. It is my hope that Senators FEINSTEIN and BURR will quickly pass a companion resolution in the Senate chamber and that

President Obama will by Presidential Proclamation, designate September as National Child Awareness Month so that the many child-focused programs of the federal government might also be highlighted.

Most importantly, I commend the many local and national youth-serving organizations and charities dedicated to the well-being of children across the nation and the world.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL AMUSEMENT PARK RIDE SAFETY ACT OF 2009

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, Memorial Day is the beginning of the season when many American families take their children to our amusement parks for a day of fun and sun. Most Americans, when they enter an amusement park, believe that the rides at these parks are subject to oversight by the nation's top consumer safety watchdog—the Consumer Product Safety Commission, CPSC. However, this is, unbelievably, not the case. Since 1981, a "Roller Coaster Loophole" has been carved out of the Consumer Product Safety Act.

This loophole is a dangerous gap in child safety and injury prevention, and it is having serious consequences. Between 1987 and 2004, the CPSC reports that there were 3,400 amusement park ride-related accidents and deaths. This estimate is likely lower than the actual number of injuries, due to the CPSC's lack of authority over fixed-site rides.

It is time to act on the words of President Obama when he called for us to, "do more to protect the American public—especially our nation's children—from being harmed by unsafe products."

It is time to put the safety of our children first—it is time to close the Roller Coaster Loophole.

Today, I am re-introducing the National Amusement Park Safety Act, to restore safety oversight to a largely unregulated industry and protect our nation's children.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, May 19, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 270 (Motion to Suspend the rules and Agree to H.R. 1089), "nay" on rollcall vote No. 271 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to S. 896), "yea" on rollcall vote No. 272 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 360).

SMALL BUSINESS AID BILL

HON. BETSY MARKEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the Small Business Assistance in Debt Bill (Small Business AID Bill). The Small Business AID Bill will expand the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 loan program to be used to refinance conventional, non-SBA loans. This bill will permit small business owners to access capital and tap into equity that is locked in their commercial real estate due to the financial and banking crisis. Market conditions have changed and are making it harder for small businesses to gain access to capital to continue investing in and expanding their businesses. My bill reduces risk to banks from conventional, non-SBA loans on their balance sheets while simultaneously infusing cash into the banking system. This change will not require additional taxpayer support or an additional Congressional allocation, since this program is self-supporting.

Many small businesses have been hamstrung by today's economic conditions. Due to changes in the banking industry's ability and willingness to lend, small businesses are being squeezed out of capital markets. Banks, like most Americans, have been forced to tighten their belts; and banks have had to limit access to capital. With a lack of available capital, small businesses, the economic engine of America, are in crisis. Within the next year, approximately \$2.5 billion in commercial loans will come due. Many banks will not be willing or able to renew these loans for small businesses, many whom will be unable to raise the necessary financing to survive. Other small businesses are being forced to stay in loans that are higher than today's current interest rates. Small businesses need another means to refinance their loans to weather this financial storm and potentially expand through new capital. By allowing SBA-backed lenders to extend financing small businesses will be able to: acquire land, construct buildings, or purchase equipment and collateralize fixed assets, avoid prepayment penalties, financing fees, and other costs. Small businesses will receive these benefits while obtaining better loan terms and lower interest rates for existing debt.

A good way to illustrate how my bill works may be helpful to my colleagues: Acme Company owns a building that an appraiser values at \$100,000. Acme owes \$70,000 on the building to their local bank. Due to the economic and financial crises bank regulators require the bank to downgrade their loans with Acme. The bank severely restricts or eliminates Acme's line of credit. The absence of the line of credit causes a very real hardship, impacting Acme's cash flow. With the inability to manage cash, Acme is severely impacted and encounters problems with operating day-to-day. While Acme has equity in their building, their bank cannot and would not allow them to access this equity due to the downgraded borrower status. With my bill, the SBA would be able to offer a new 504 loan to Acme for up to \$40,000 (since the bill limits lending up to 40% of the value of the property). With this new loan, Acme would be able

to unlock up to \$20,000 worth of equity which they could use to maintain the business, retain jobs, or purchase new equipment to help the business grow again.

There was very little immediate impact for small businesses from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Banks' inability and sometimes unwillingness to assist small businesses will continue for some time and we must act now to help small businesses stay afloat. My bill assists small businesses by providing SBA guarantees for a portion of certain loans coordinated through Certified Development Companies (CDCs). These non-profit organizations work with local lenders to provide secure SBA-backed loans to small businesses. The SBA then guarantees a portion of the loan, reducing the risk to lenders and dramatically increasing small businesses' access to capital. Until this bill, CDC loans were only available for new businesses or business expansion; but with this bill these loans would be available to refinance existing debt. By refinancing small businesses will continue to be current on their existing loans with SBA lenders. The lack of access to working capital depresses small businesses, resulting in a corresponding increase in unemployment rates.

In today's economy, small businesses are struggling. My bill assists small businesses to pull themselves up without any government handout or bailout. They will be able to refinance their current debt so that they can invest in new facilities, equipment, or hire additional workers. I urge all members to support the Small Business AID Bill.

CONGRATULATING DR. STUART COHEN ON HIS PRESIDENTIAL TERM OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Dr. Stuart Cohen on his term as the 138th President of the San Diego County Medical Society (SDCMS). As America faces the difficult challenges of addressing health care reform, it is reassuring that there are leaders like Dr. Cohen in positions of influence to help our nation craft policies that will bring quality and accessible health care to all Americans.

The San Diego County Medical Society, representing over 8,000 physicians in San Diego County, is a non-profit organization founded in 1870. SDCMS is chartered by the California Medical Association and affiliated with the American Medical Association (AMA). The mission of SDCMS is to promote the science and art of medicine, the quality care and wellbeing of patients, the protection of the public health, the betterment of the medical profession, and the adjudication of ethical relations to its members, as well as the provision of education to its members in scientific, social, legal, and medico-economic aspects of medical practice.

Dr. Cohen received his medical degree in 1981 from the University of Manitoba and served his internship and residency at the Health Sciences Center at Children's Hospital in Winnipeg, Canada. Dr. Cohen is board cer-

tified in pediatrics and has been a member of Children's Primary Care Medical Group since 1996.

Dr. Cohen has been an active member of the San Diego County Medical Society and the California Medical Association since 1988 and the American Medical Association since 1994. He has served on numerous committees as a CMA delegate, an AMA delegate, as well as the SDCMS Board of Directors, Executive and Finance Committees and the San Diego Physician magazine Editorial Board. Dr. Cohen is also a member of numerous medical societies including the American Academy of Pediatrics—San Diego Chapter and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dr. Cohen is well respected by his peers as evidenced by the fact he was selected as a San Diego "Top Doctor" for the last four years. On a personal note, I have benefited immensely from Dr. Cohen's wise counsel on how to craft effective health care policy for all San Diegans.

Let history show that this year will be the year Congress makes progress on health reform. Americans are demanding we put partisan differences aside and devise a health care system that covers all Americans, puts patients first and ensures the highest quality.

With influential leaders such as Dr. Stuart Cohen leading the fight, I feel confident Congress will craft sensible health care policy.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
STATE HIGHWAY TRANSPOR-
TATION OFFICIALS

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, as cochair of the Congressional Caucus on Global Road Safety, I would like to extend my appreciation and sincerest thanks to the Board of Directors of the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO), who recently passed a policy resolution in support of House Concurrent Resolution 74, a resolution introduced by myself and my fellow Caucus cochairs, Congressman CHRIS VAN HOLLEN and Congressman DAN BURTON, supporting the goals and ideals of a decade of action for road safety with a global target to reduce by 50 percent the predicted increase in global road deaths between 2010 and 2020 and urging the Obama administration to take a leadership role at the First Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in Moscow later this year.

My fellow cochairs and I believe it is critical that the United States work with nations around the world to achieve the goals and ideals of a decade of action for road safety and to reduce the impact of this health epidemic on the global community, and I sincerely appreciate AASHTO's support for this resolution and for their efforts to work with the Global Road Safety Caucus to educate Members of Congress on the issue of road safety. To that end, I encourage all of my colleagues to review the text of AASHTO's resolution, which I am including in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

POLICY RESOLUTION PR-2-09 SUPPORTING
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 74

Whereas, AASHTO and its members departments remain fully committed to reduc-

ing the number of deaths on our Nation's roads as evidenced by current AASHTO policy positions and efforts to implement AASHTO's Strategic Highway Safety Plan, including the adoption by the Board of Directors in December, 1997 and revised and updated in December, 2004, a goal to reduce fatalities by half in 20 years;

Whereas, According to the 2004 World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention, 40,000 people on the United States and 1,300,000 people globally die in road crashes each year;

Whereas, Another 20,000,000 to 50,000,000 people globally are injured each year as a result of speeding motor vehicles and the increased use of motor vehicles;

Whereas, Road crashes are the leading cause of death globally for young people between the ages of 10 and 24 years;

Whereas, The current estimated monetary cost of motor vehicles crashes worldwide is greater than \$500,000,000,000 annually, representing between 3 and 5 percent of the gross domestic product of each nation;

Whereas, According to the World Health Organization, over 90 percent of motorist-related deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries;

Whereas, According to the World Health Organization, motorist related deaths and cost continue to rise in these countries due to a lack of appropriate road engineering and injury prevention programs in public health sectors;

Whereas, The United States, United Nations, and international community should promote the improvement of data collection and comparability, including adopting the standard definition of a road death as "any person killed immediately or dying within 30 days as a result of a road traffic crash" and the facilitation of international cooperation to develop reliable data systems and analytical capability;

Whereas, It is critical that the international community support collaborative action to enhance global road safety and reduce the risk of road crash death and injury around the world by fostering partnerships and cooperation between governments, private and public sectors, professional associations, and within civil society, as well as relationships among the Federal Highway Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and other national and international road safety authorities;

Whereas, The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in 2005 designating the third Sunday of November as a day of remembrance for road crash victims and their families and calling on nations globally to improve road safety;

Whereas, The United States Congress passed H. Con. Res. 87, as well as S. Con. Res. 39 in the 110th Congress supporting the goals and ideals of a world day of remembrance for road crash victims;

Whereas, The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in 2008 highlighting the impact global road safety issues, encouraging nations to take action to reduce road crash risks across the world and creating the first global high-level conference on road safety in Moscow in November 2009;

Whereas, The Ministerial Consultative Committee of the First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety on Moscow has drafted a declaration to designate 2010–2020 as the "Decade of Action for Global Road Safety"; now, therefore be it

Resolved, By the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials that AASHTO supports the goals and ideals of a decade of action for global road safety with a global target to reduce by 50 percent the predicted increase in global road deaths between 2010 and 2020; be it further

Resolved, AASHTO encourages international harmonization of road safety regulations and good practices through accession to and implementation of related United Nations legal instruments, resolutions, and manuals issued by the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration; and finally be it

Resolved, AASHTO encourages the United States to take a leadership role at the First Ministerial Conference on Road Safety and for the United States to work with nations around the world to achieve the goals and ideals of a decade of action for road safety and to reduce the impact of this health epidemic on the global community.

PRESIDENT MA OF TAIWAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to comment on the remarkable achievements of the government of Taiwan in moving forward a new era of peace in the Pacific.

One year ago, the new President of Taiwan took office amid increasing tensions between China and Taiwan. Today, because of the initiatives of President Ma ying jo, Cross Straits relations have improved to such an extent that they have now produced a series of agreements to enhance mutual cooperation between Taiwan and China.

For too long Taiwan, opposed by China, has been excluded from the World Health Organization. As a result of the conciliatory efforts of President Ma and the recognition by authorities in China of the need to have Taiwan represented, Taiwan now has achieved status by the World Health Assembly. Good work President Ma. With the new health crisis the world faces with Swine Flu, politics must not impede mutual cooperation in combating this dreadful problem.

Increased communications, charter flights and postal agreements negotiated through the initiatives promoted by President Ma in his first year in office have lessened tensions to the extent that day to day contacts have replaced confrontation.

It is in the interest of the United States that this progress, which we understand is the hallmark of President Ma, continue. Peace in the Pacific is an essential ingredient of world progress.

Good luck Mr. President. May the successes of your first year in office be the forerunner of many years to come.

INTRODUCING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the Sanctity of Life Act. This legislation provides that the federal courts of the United States, up to and including the Supreme Court, do not have jurisdiction to hear abortion-related cases. Since the Supreme Court invented a "right" to abortion in *Roe v. Wade*, federal judges have repeatedly thwarted efforts by democratically elected officials at the state and local level to protect the unborn.

However, the federal courts have no legitimate authority to tell states and local communities what restrictions can and cannot be placed on abortion. Even some intellectually honest supporters of legalized abortion acknowledge that *Roe v. Wade* was incorrectly decided. Congress must use the authority granted to it in Article 3, Section 1 of the Constitution to rein in rogue federal judges from interfering with a state's ability to protect unborn life.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues will join me in support of using the power granted to the Congress by the Constitution to protect the ability of individual states and the people to restore respect for the sanctity of human life.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION

HON. BETSY MARKEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record that had I been present for the vote on H.R. 915, I would have voted in favor of the FAA reauthorization. As my daughter and son are graduating from college and high school, respectively, I am unable to be present for the vote. As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I was proud to approve the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009 in our committee.

Being from Colorado, I fly in and out of Denver International Airport. Denver has struggled recently with a dearth of properly trained air traffic controllers. Denver TRACON is struggling with staffing problems because of: retirements, resignations, trainee failures and an inability to recruit and retain both the experienced veteran workforce and high quality trainees that have the ability to succeed in the training program. Air traffic controllers are required to retire by age 56, and of late, 98 percent of controllers have retired before that age because their salaries are not competitive. I am pleased that H.R. 915 addresses the mediation issues between the National Air Traffic Controllers Association and the FAA.

Additionally, the inclusion of funding to accelerate the implementation of the NextGen system is critical. It is important that we seize any opportunity that we have to make our airways not only safer but also more efficient.

I am also pleased to see that the bill increases funding for Essential Air Service. Coming from a rural district, I understand how critical EAS is to economic development. Rural communities across America count on EAS to preserve affordable, reliable air service. The EAS program is a major piece of our rural transportation infrastructure and greatly enhances the ability of these communities to attract and retain new business investment. I support continued efforts to maintain this vital program and urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING RON VANVOORHIS, TEACHER AT EAST MUSKINGUM MIDDLE SCHOOL, FOR GIVING STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE WASHINGTON, DC FOR 30 YEARS

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Ron VanVoorhis, initiated East Muskingum Middle School's annual trips to Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas, Mr. VanVoorhis has been responsible for close to 4,000 students being able to see and experience Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas, Mr. VanVoorhis has consistently attended each trip, missing only one year for the birth of his daughter; and

Whereas, Mr. VanVoorhis has provided this service without stipend and consistently at very low cost, saving each student an average of \$100 per trip; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Mr. Ron VanVoorhis on his service to the East Muskingum Middle School, and congratulate him on his 30 years of service in bringing the students of EMMS to Washington, D.C. to give them a better idea of what it means to be an American citizen.

IN HONOR OF THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NOVA-ANNANDALE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2009 AWARDS RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra on the occasion of their 15th Anniversary and to pay tribute to their 2009 Award Recipients.

In 1994, Dr. Claiborne Richardson of The Reunion Music Society and Dr. Gladys Watkins of the Northern Virginia Community College formed a partnership between the two organizations to create the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra. This orchestra combines the talents of local professional and amateur musicians and college students to develop their skills and to perform the music of different cultures and heritages. On April 17, 2009 during the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra's 15th Anniversary celebration, The Reunion Music Society announced the award recipients in two special categories: The Richardson-Watkins Founders Awards, which recognize persons or businesses from the community that have made significant contributions to the success of the Reunion Music Society's programs, and The Orchestra/Players Awards, which are given to musicians who have made significant contributions to the success and development of the Symphony over several years and are selected by their peers in the orchestra.

The recipients of The Richardson-Watkins Founders Awards are:

Annandale Florist, Inc. and Mr. Gary Sherfey for many years of providing complimentary flower arrangements displayed on the theater stage at the Symphony Orchestra concerts and for helping to promote concerts through displays at the florist shop.

Mr. Norman Johnston, a long-time volunteer and one of the founding members of the RMS, who served on the Board of Directors for many years. He continues to support the Symphony Orchestra by serving as the organization's graphic artist as well as providing significant financial support both personally and through the solicitation of paid advertising.

Dr. Bruce Mann, Dean of Liberal Arts at Northern Virginia Community College's Annandale campus, who serves as the college's liaison to the RMS. He oversees the music courses that involve college students and members of the Symphony Orchestra and coordinates the scheduling of concerts and rehearsals. In addition, he successfully solicits and obtains financial resources for concerts. Dr. Mann is presently serving his fourth year on RMS' Board of Directors.

The recipients of The Orchestra/Players Awards are:

Mr. Claiborne T. Richardson II: For the last 15 years "Clai" has generously contributed his time and talent to the Symphony Orchestra helping it to grow and thrive. As the orchestra's percussion and timpani section leader he leads and teaches his section, which is composed of many budding musicians, while encouraging and promoting the works of new young composers. Clai is a mainstay musician with the other RMS programs—the Annandale Brass, Reunion Music Society Jazz Orchestra, and the Chris Johnston Trio.

Ms. Jody Smalley: Jody has been playing the violin with the Symphony Orchestra since it was formed 15 years ago. As vice president of the Orchestra's Board of Directors, Jody arranges for guest musicians to rehearse and perform with the Orchestra. Her production of CD's of music to assist other musicians with their individual practices and the Power Point presentation she prepares to accompany the annual "Winter Wonderland" program helps to ensure the high quality of the performances.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra on their 15th Anniversary and paying tribute to the recipients of The Richardson-Watkins Founder's Awards and of the Orchestra/Player Awards.

TRIBUTE TO RODGER MCFARLANE, PIONEER IN THE LGBT CIVIL RIGHTS AND HIV/AIDS MOVE- MENTS

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Rodger McFarlane. A pioneer and legend in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights and HIV/AIDS movements, this remarkable man merits our recognition and our esteem for his unprecedented contributions to our nation and to the world.

Sadly, Rodger was taken from us far too young, at age 54. Larry Kramer, Rodger's

longtime partner and collaborator, has said that Rodger "did more for the gay world than any person has ever done." Rodger was at the forefront of responding to the AIDS epidemic as it began to ravage our country in the early 1980's. Before HIV even had a name, in 1981, Rodger set up the first HIV/AIDS hotline anywhere; in fact, he used his home phone. Rodger, one of the original volunteers at Gay Men's Health Crisis, the nation's first and largest provider of AIDS client services and public education programs, became its first paid executive director. Until his death, Rodger was the president emeritus of Bailey House, the nation's first and largest provider of supportive housing for homeless people with HIV. Rodger was also a founding member of ACT UP-NY, the pioneering protest group responsible for sweeping changes to public policy as well as drug treatment and delivery processes.

In 1989, Rodger became executive director of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, merging two small industry-based fundraising groups into one of America's most successful and influential AIDS fundraising and grant-making organizations. From 2004 to 2008, Rodger served as the executive director of the Denver-based Gill Foundation, one of the nation's largest funders of programs advocating for LGBT equality. Rodger was instrumental in the creation of the Gill Foundation's sister organization, Gill Action.

Rodger took three organizations in their infancy and grew each into a powerhouse to tackle the international tragedy of HIV/AIDS. At Gay Men's Health Crisis, Rodger increased fundraising from a few thousand dollars to the \$25 million agency it is today. During his tenure at Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, he increased the organization's annual revenue from less than \$1 million to more than \$5 million, while also leveraging an additional \$40 million annually through strategic alliances with other funders and corporate partnerships. He transformed the Gill Foundation by sharpening its strategic purpose, focusing its philanthropy in the states, aligning its investment with political imperatives, and forging alliances that furthered both the LGBT movement and the progressive movement as a whole.

The breadth of Rodger's accomplishments is astounding. A proud U.S. Navy veteran, Rodger was a licensed nuclear engineer who conducted strategic missions in the North Atlantic and far Arctic regions aboard a fast attack submarine. A gifted athlete, he was a veteran of seven over-ice expeditions to the North Pole. He also competed internationally for many years as an elite tri-athlete.

Although Rodger never completed college, he was an accomplished and best-selling author and producer of works for the stage. Rodger co-wrote several books, including *The Complete Bedside Companion: No Nonsense Advice on Caring for the Seriously Ill* (Simon & Schuster, 1998), and most recently, Larry Kramer's *The Tragedy of Today's Gays* (Penguin, 2005). In 1993, he co-produced the Pulitzer Prize-nominated production of Larry Kramer's *The Destiny of Me*, the sequel to *The Normal Heart*.

Rodger's many achievements led to well-deserved awards; he was recognized with honors such as the New York City Distinguished Service Award, the Presidential Voluntary Action Award, the Eleanor Roosevelt Award, the Emery Award from the Hetrick Martin Institute, and Tony and Drama Desk honors. Most re-

cently, he received the Patient Advocacy Award from the American Psychiatric Association.

Beyond his professional contributions, friends knew Rodger as a devoted caregiver who nursed countless friends and family members battling cancer and AIDS. He was the most compassionate and giving of friends, especially to those in physical or emotional distress. A hallmark of his personality, his humor made him stand out from the rest.

Please join me in paying tribute to the life of Rodger McFarlane, a constituent of mine, who was a tireless activist, a brilliant strategist, a remarkable leader, and a treasured friend. A man who achieved so much in such a short time, Rodger will be missed by many. Denver is better for the time he spent there. Our world is better for the time he spent here.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF OAKWOOD CEMETERY IN MT. VERNON, ILLI- NOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note the 125th anniversary of Oakwood Cemetery in Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

Since Oakwood's formal recognition in 1883, concerned local citizens have worked tirelessly to ensure that those in the community who have left this life have a peaceful and dignified final resting place. This Memorial Day, the hard-working staff, which does so much to maintain Oakwood, will welcome area residents to the annual Memorial Day Weekend Drive-Thru. Local citizens can visit the resting places of such prominent citizens as the city's first mayor, James Pace, Civil War Generals C.W. Pavey and W.B. Anderson, and Illinois Governor L.L. Emmerson.

Over the decades, local residents have put great efforts in creating a beautiful and serene final resting place. According to its official history, the cemetery has over 9,000 markers spread along five miles of roads. The groundskeepers mow an average of 35 times per year, totaling 1,600 acres.

I want to salute the board members and staff members, past and present, of the Oakwood Cemetery in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, for the important work that they have done for 125 years.

THE MEDICAL RIGHTS ACT OF 2009, H.R. 2516

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to stand here today to introduce the Medical Rights Act of 2009 that will protect the doctor-patient relationship, the integrity of the medical profession and the right of Americans to choose the care they deem appropriate without federal delay or restriction.

The President outlined three principles for health care reform—lower costs, choice and access. I support these goals. To back them,

the President should endorse the Medical Rights Act. Our legislation is founded on this: Congress should make no law to block the decisions that American patients make with their doctor. If patients are our prime focus, their rights should be protected in law.

We can look to Great Britain and Canada to show us how government takeover of health care puts Congress, then the government in charge of your health care decisions, allowing them to decide what treatments you should or should not have. While over 60 percent of Americans are actually satisfied with their health care plan, only 55 percent of Canadian seniors are satisfied. The starkest difference in care appears when you are sickest. In Britain, government hospitals maintain nine intensive care unit beds per 100,000 people. In America, we have three times that number at 31 per 100,000. In sum, Britain has less than two doctors per 1,000 people, ranking it next to Mexico and Turkey.

If we do not enact the Medical Rights Act, patients will be at risk when government denies care, as they routinely do in Canada and Great Britain. Once denied government care, many Canadians find doctors in the U.S. If Congress orders the government to take over America's health care, where can we drive once care is denied by a new government health care system? To prevent this nightmare, Congress should pass the Medical Rights Act.

We need to promote patient-centered health care reform, where every American has access to the care they need, when they need it. It is not the role of the federal government to decide the type of care a patient should have but the role of doctors and medical professionals. I urge my colleagues to support the Medical Rights Act to stop the federal government from taking control over decisions made by you and your doctor.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
PRINCETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Princeton Public Library in Bureau County, Illinois. The Princeton Public Library was recently the host of "Between Fences," an exhibition from Museum on Main Street, a partnership of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and the Federation of State Humanities Councils. The Princeton Public Library is only one of two Illinois libraries that have been granted the opportunity to host this exhibit.

The exhibit embraces the use and existence of fences as an important facet of United States history. Fences are indicative of the owners lives, their property, and their relationship with their neighbors. For this reason, the Smithsonian Institution and State Humanities Councils chose to highlight fences as an integral part of the fabric of communities through history.

The mission of the Museum on Main Street project is to respond creatively to the challenge faced by rural museums to enhance their own cultural legacies. Princeton, a community of just under 8,000 residents, is thrilled to feature "Between Fences" and I am honored to represent them.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL CHILD
AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 438, "Expressing support for designation of September as 'National Child Awareness Month.'" This bipartisan resolution sponsored by Rep. LORETTA SANCHEZ (D-CA-47) and cosponsored by me, would recognize the efforts of our community leaders as they participate in growing the hopes and dreams of our children; the future of our Nation.

September, a month characterized by the return to school, signifies the start of the new school year. All around the country, corporations and businesses gear-up to highlight our youth and support children's charities and youth serving organizations. Declaring September as National Child Awareness Month will provide an excellent collaborative platform for these charitable groups to bring national attention to issues of vital concern to our children such as education, health, social services, sports, arts, and character development.

H. Res. 438 would recognize these efforts as a positive investment for the future of our Nation. National Child Awareness Month is supported by many regional and national youth organizations among which are the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Madam Speaker, I applaud my colleagues in recognizing the efforts those children's charities and youth serving organizations have put forth and also honor children for their widespread participation in these groups.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 2

10 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Victor M. Mendez, of Arizona, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.

SD-406

JUNE 4

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year

2010 and the Future Years Defense Program for the Department of the Navy; to be possibly followed by a closed session in SVC-217.

SH-216

JUNE 10

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs' construction process.

SR-418

JUNE 24

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs' quality management activities.

SR-418